

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Section

Brownfields Redevelopment Program



De Soto Boat Ramp

Background:

Inspired by the possibility of a dream becoming a reality, Lana McPherson detailed her community's desires for a Kansas River access ramp and city park during the exercise portion of the KDHE's Brownfields Workshop in Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 13, 2005.

McPherson (City Clerk and Chair of the Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee for the City of De Soto, Kansas) previously had performed a community survey that indicated a strong desire to "get back on the river" as part of the community's 2007 sesquicentennial celebration. The city purchased two adjacent properties along the river for a future city park, setting the stage to incorporate a river access ramp and showcase both the ramp and the park as the centerpiece of the 2007 sesquicentennial.

McPherson submitted an application to KDHE on July 27th to have Brownfields Targeted Assessments (BTAs) conducted on the riverside properties located northwest of the city. KDHE's BTA program is funded through a federal grant and provides funding for Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments for redevelopment projects.



Unregulated Dumping Site Located on the Eastern Property

A Recognized Environmental Condition (REC) was identified for the eastern property due to historical and unregulated use as a public dump site. A Phase II BTA was completed and approved in mid-March 2006 by KDHE in time for the public celebration of the boat ramp completion on the western property.

Based on data collected during the Phase II BTA, there were no significant environmental impacts identified at the eastern property and, therefore, no additional environmental response was necessary. However, KDHE recommended that fill and dump areas present on the property be removed to eliminate potential safety hazards to workers building the city park and future recreational users. The city should coordinate with the KDHE Bureau of Waste Management to allow for safe redevelopment of the eastern portion for recreational use.



Former Sand-Dredging Facility on the Western Most Property

Phase I and Phase II BTA Assessment:

By early October 2005, Phase I BTAs were completed at both properties. Phase I assessments did not identify any environmental concerns on the western property, where a sand-dredging facility had operated for several years. Based on these findings, the city began design and construction of the boat access ramp on the south side of the Kansas River.



Boat Ramp Located on Western Property in Final Stages